

THE GREAT QUESTION OF THE DAY: H for HORROR—or H for HOPE?

M.P.s will hear from Sir Winston Churchill, and debate it all, in four days time

Monday is Policy Day

THE FULL H-BOMB STORY

Soviet menaced U.S. lead
IKE'S CHIEF SPEAKS

'A stupendous blast but in control'

From HENRY LOWRIE: Washington, Wednesday

MR. LEWIS STRAUSS, 58-year-old chief of America's atomic programme, revealed today that America went ahead with H-bomb tests because Russia had challenged her leadership in the atomic field.

He said at President Eisenhower's Press conference that there was good reason to believe that Russia had started work on the H-bomb before America.

Mr. Strauss [pronounced Strauss], an immaculate, efficient, fast-speaking former banker, reported that the recent H-bomb explosions were "stupendous."

But, he said, the March 1 explosion was at no time out of control. The explosion was about double what had been expected—a margin of error not incompatible with a totally new weapon.

Japs were in danger area

He said that the 23 Japanese fishermen burned by ash must have been "definitely well within" the danger area—but search teams had not spotted their boat.

He said the condition of the fishermen was not clear because U.S. doctors had not been allowed to examine them properly.

He pointed out that 28 Americans manning weather stations on little islands in the radioactive "fall-out" area suffered no burns.

He also said that the blood count of the Japanese fishermen was comparable to that of the weather-station men.

And Mr. Strauss said that reports of widespread contamination of tuna and other fish were just not true.

He said the wind on March 1 failed to follow predictions and thus carried explosion particles to three little islands which had not been evacuated.

The 236 islanders were promptly taken off. Mr. Strauss said he visited them last week and all were well and happy.

He said: "As a matter of fact we have more natives than we started with. One child was born while I was there and four more are expected."

"I gave my wife's name (Alice) and a dowry of ten pigs to the girl who was born."

New York could be wrecked

Mr. Strauss was asked: "What happens when an H-bomb goes off? How big is the area of destruction?"

He replied: "In effect it can be made as large as you wish, as large as the military requirement demands. That is to say, an H-bomb can be made as large as, well, large enough to 'take out' a city."

Reporters' chorus: What?

Mr. Strauss: To take out a city, to destroy a city. President Eisenhower, sitting behind Strauss, shook his head gravely and stared at the floor.

Question: How big a city?

Mr. Strauss: Any city.

Question: New York?

Mr. Strauss: The metropolitan area, yes.

Later Mr. Strauss explained that he did not mean the bomb could level the 359 square miles of New York; but it could put the area out of commission.

London, we noted, has 693 square miles.

Russia set the atom pace...

Here, for the historic record, is the full report by Mr. Strauss of the two hydrogen bomb explosions:—

The President has authorised me to make available those portions of my report of yesterday to him, the publication of which would not compromise information vital to our national security.

I have just returned from the Pacific proving grounds of the Atomic Energy Commission where I witnessed the second part of a test series of thermonuclear weapons.

I will describe it as well as I am able, but perhaps before doing so it would be appropriate to begin with a short summary of the historical background.

We detected the test of an atomic weapon, or device, by the Russians in August of 1949.

Realising that our leadership was therefore challenged and that our sole possession of the weapon, which had been a major deterrent to aggression had been cancelled, it became clear that our superiority would thereafter be only relative and dependent upon a



LET US JOIN NATO, SAYS RUSSIA

By DEREK MARKS

RUSSIA came out last night with an offer which she represented as an effort to restore the wartime Grand Alliance which defeated Hitler.

The Soviet put forward three major points:—

1. The formation of a new European Defence Pact, in which the United States could join.

2. An offer to discuss Russia joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

3. An international agreement to be signed banning all weapons and reducing other arms.

The new offer was made in a note handed over in Moscow last night, when Britain's Ambassador, Sir William Hayter, was called to the Kremlin by Mr. Molotov, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

Similar Notes were handed to the French and American Ambassadors.

Shrewd move

MR. MOLOTOV has shrewdly changed his original plan for a European security pact in order to meet the major objection of the Western Powers.

At the Berlin Foreign Ministers' conference he refused to allow the Americans to join the pact. He then put forward his new offer.

Now he says that as the U.S. fought against Hitler, the Soviet Government sees no obstacle against U.S. participation in a European treaty of collective security.

Molotov suggests that Russian entry into NATO should be considered because the organisation might lose its prestige if it excludes the great Powers in the anti-Hitler coalition take part in it.

The Soviet Foreign Minister then suggests that an overall arms reduction would eliminate the danger of atom warfare.

U.S. says 'No'

IN Washington last night the State Department said the U.S. would reject the Soviet proposal to discuss joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

The official opinion was: "It is a manoeuvre to gain admittance within the walls of the West to undermine its security."

The Moscow suggestion that the U.S. should join a Soviet-Proposed European Security Pact was described as "an effort by Mr. Molotov to retrieve diplomatic failure at the Berlin Foreign Ministers' meeting."

EVA BARTOK HURT, GOES TO HOSPITAL

Express Staff Reporter: Rome, Wednesday

EVA BARTOK, red-haired Hungarian film star who was escorted by the Marquis of Milford Haven last year, was taken to a Rome hospital yesterday.

In the early hours she was heard screaming for help, but the night porter was unable to enter the flat.

She explained when she left hospital today: "I slipped on the marble floor."

Eva Bartok is making a film with the Austrian actor Kurt Jurgens, to whom she is engaged.

The Hermes ban 'is still on'

Fifty B.O.A.C. shop stewards decided yesterday still to refuse to prepare for sale 19 surplus Hermes airliners at London Airport, although their unions had agreed to the planes being sold to private companies.

Bridegroom in crash

Four hours after 24-year-old Mr. Harry Barker married 22-year-old Miss Margaret Brown in Leeds yesterday he was badly injured in a car accident.

Death on the zebras

One in every 20 pedestrians killed or injured last year was on zebra crossings, the Commons were told yesterday.

Royal Tan trainer suspended 3 months

By PETER O'SULLIVAN

MR. VINCENT O'BRIEN, 39-year-old star Irish National Hunt trainer who prepared Royal Tan for his Grand National victory, had his licence suspended yesterday for three months.

The stewards of the Irish National Hunt Committee, after an inquiry, "were not satisfied," Mr. O'Brien said, with his answers to allegations that the form of four horses in his stable was "inconsistent."

Among the "inconsistent" horses named was Royal Tan. Hours after Mr. O'Brien left the meeting of the stewards at their Dublin headquarters, a statement typed by his attractive 28-year-old wife Jacqueline said:—

"I was asked by the stewards to explain the 'inconsistent' running of four horses trained by me, namely Royal Tan, Early Tan, the 1953 National winner, Lucky Dame, and Knock Hard."

"The stewards said they 'could not accept my explanations.' I am in the dark as to what—if any offence I am alleged to have committed."

"No suggestion was made against the manner in which the horses were ridden in any of their races. In fact, no specific charge in respect of the running of any horse in any race has been made."

Mr. O'Brien said that the stewards' ban would affect his flat running as well as the National Hunt horses in his stable.

It would bar his entries in the Irish Grand National, Royal Tan and Quare Times—and might affect Knock Hard's running in America's International Stakes at Belmont Park, New York.

The inquiry was called a fortnight ago and, after a formal meeting, was adjourned until yesterday.

WITNESSES

Officials of the English National Hunt Committee were then invited to give evidence. Two secretaries of the committee, Mr. H. H. Jacobs and Colonel J. M. Mansell, flew to Dublin yesterday.

So did Bryan Marshall, who rode Royal Tan and Early Tan to their National victories.

Mr. John Woods, of Cork, owner of Lucky Dame, a surprise 100-5 winner at Cheltenham, was another witness.

In the past five years Mr. O'Brien has won the Irish Derby with Chiamier, four Cheltenham Gold Cups, three Champion Hurdles, and two consecutive Grand Nationals.

Duchess of Kent to visit Canada

OTTAWA, Wednesday.—The Duchess of Kent and Princess Alexandra will visit Canada this summer. The formal announcement will be made in London and Ottawa in the next few days.

The visit will probably be in the late summer to avoid clashing with the Duke of Edinburgh's tour from July 18 to August 20.—Express News Service.

Royal godmother

Princess Margaret will be a godmother to Lord Eskdaill, son of the Earl and Countess of Dalkeith, who is to be baptised at Melrose next Wednesday.

Award to blinded boy may put 5s. on rates

HERE HE IS AT BEDTIME LAST NIGHT—



'He will forget what mother looked like'

Express Staff Reporter

SEVEN-YEAR-OLD Reggie Bates, blinded for life when he toppled from a slide in a council playground, was awarded £17,500 damages by a High Court jury yesterday.

And that award, made against the parish council of Stone (pop. 7,800), near Dartford, Kent, may put Stone's rates up by 5s. in the £.

In Stone a penny rate rises only 2s. 6d. And in Stone the present parish rate stands at 1s. in the £.

Last night council chairman Mr. Hector J. Roberts said: "The damages are far higher than we on the council anticipated even in our wildest dreams."

"I cannot say what they will do to our parish finances. It may be necessary to call a special meeting."

"Although we were insured to some extent, the major responsibility will have to be borne by the council."

The price

In the High Court the jury had heard Mr. Justice Gassels say of little Reggie Bates:—

"At the age of three this boy's sight was taken from him and if he grows to manhood he will be a blind man. No amount of money can restore the boy's sight."

He will forget what his father and mother looked like. He has never seen his young sister and he will never know what it is to play with children of normal sight."

He will never see a football match and he will grow up an entirely different person."

Reggie, who lives in Louisa-road, Stone, fell 12 feet from the top of a playhouse which was just being built and damaged his optic nerve.

Through his father he sued the parish council, alleging negligence. The council denied but the jury decided that the slide was dangerous and the council had not taken steps to protect the boy.

With the award of £17,500 the jury granted Reggie's father £27 expenses.

They say—

The judges ordered £5,000 to be paid into court within 14 days and granted a month's stay of execution pending a possible appeal.

"What do the villagers of Stone think of a possible 5s. on their rates because of the award?" said the village piano teacher.

"This will hit the ratepayers like a bomb, but it's a good thing they looked after the boy so well—it's pitiful to see him."

Missing boy found

Barrie Wilson, 13-year-old schoolboy missing for eight days from his home at St. Helens (Lancs), was found last night in an hotel near London's Euston Station.

Some of the equipment has been smuggled into Holland from Hungary, the announcer said. He asked listeners to appeal to the Dutch F.A. to use the system in next Sunday's match against Belgium.

SUNSHINE MONEY

Mr. Butler gets profit instead of big loss

By FREDERICK ELLIS

MR. R. A. BUTLER, Chancellor of the Exchequer, ruled off the nation's balance sheet last night with a sunshine surplus of £93,638,000.

Oh, what joy for Mr. Butler! For a deficit of £116,612,000 was indicated.

The taxpayer yielded £2,600,000 MORE. And the Government spent £203 million LESS.

Even dealing with what the experts call "below the line" spending—money spent on capital

4.30a.m. LATEST

DUKE TO VISIT EUROPE

NEW YORK, Wednesday.—The Duke of Windsor said in New York that he will sail in the Queen Elizabeth on April 21 for a 10-month trip through Europe. Then he will return to New York.—B.U.P.

CENTRAL 8000

projects like nousing—Mr. Butler has more sunshine than he expected.

For the deficit here is only £391 million, against the forecast deficit of £549 million.

But now the taxpayer paid 1 From his pocket—came £4,608 million.

THE WORKERS' PAY—£1,700 million in income tax—£1,000 million less than Mr. Butler was going for.

THE RICH paid more in surtax—£5,400,000 more at £122 million. And when the rich died—

DEATH DUTIES yielded £4,500,000 more at £164,500,000. But it was living, good living, that produced a rich haul—in duties on smoking and drinking and buying.

PURCHASE TAX drew £42,000,000 more at £722 million. THE MOTORIST paid up £4,000,000 extra.

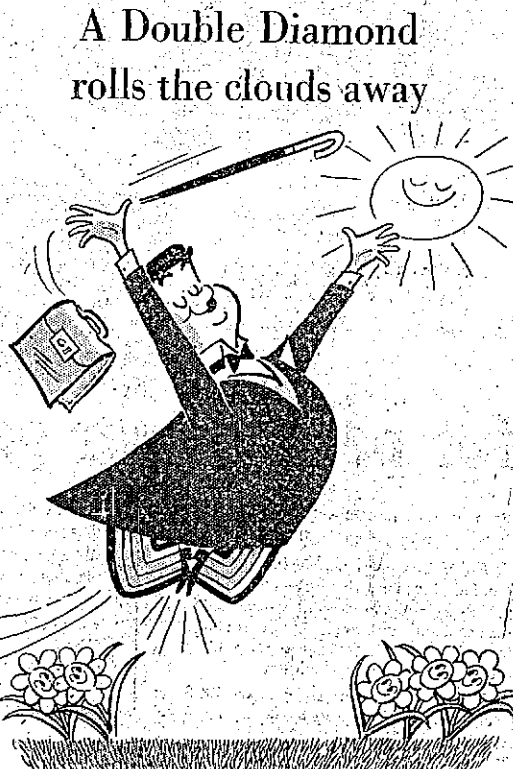
CREAM CHEAPER

1s. 6d. a pint cut

Cream comes down in price at the weekend. Mr. William Trehaue, vice-chairman of the Milk Marketing Board, gave the news in London last night.

A pint of cream now averages 6s. The new price is likely to be about 6s. 6d.

Today sees the end of the State milk trading.



A Double Diamond rolls the clouds away

He who remembers his Double Diamond remembers much that is good for him. A daily glass of this encouraging, full-flavoured Burton beer brightens your outlook, keeps you on friendly terms with the world. Drop in for a Double Diamond today. You'll find it, as always, at its bright and shining best!

A DOUBLE DIAMOND works wonders

AND COOPE'S DOUBLE DIAMOND BREWED AT BURTON